

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. It is not in the interest of "news", as they are calling it, to allow them to broadcast what in essence is a partisan political ad for the Bush election committee.

Decisions about what to broadcast should be related to issues that are important to the local viewing public, not the political biases of the owners of the network. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.